

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

The Comprehensive Program

Fiscal Year 2001

Deadline for Submission: January 26, 2001

Office of
Postsecondary
Education

Program Information and Application Materials

Introduction

The Comprehensive Program is the central grant competition of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The competition is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education.

Several characteristics of the Comprehensive Program make it unique among Federal programs.

- It is *inclusive*. All nonprofit institutions and organizations offering postsecondary education programs are eligible to receive FIPSE grants. Those grants may be in support of any academic discipline, program, or student support service.
- It is *action-oriented*. Although FIPSE will consider proposals to assess existing reforms, or to study the feasibility of reforms in the development stage, it does not ordinarily support basic research. The Comprehensive Program supports a wide range of practical reform initiatives and assists grantees in assessing their results and disseminating what is learned to other institutions and agencies.
- It encourages *bold thinking and innovative projects*. The resources of the Comprehensive Program are devoted to new ideas and practices and to the dissemination of proven innovations to others. FIPSE will support controversial or unconventional projects, as long as they are well justified, carefully designed, and responsibly managed.
- It is *responsive to practitioners*. In its Agenda for Improvement (see following pages), FIPSE identifies common issues and problems affecting postsecondary education and invites applicants to address these *or other* problems imaginatively. The Comprehensive Program welcomes proposals addressing any and all topics of postsecondary improvement and reform.

Awards:

FIPSE estimates that 130 new awards will be made in FY 2001. Grants may provide one, two, or three years of funding. Since Comprehensive Program grants may support improvement projects of varying scope and complexity, there is no minimum or maximum grant award. FIPSE expects to award grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$600,000 or more over a typical three-year period. Grant budgets will be considered in the context of the proposed project's significance and promise as a model for the reform of American postsecondary education. Fiscal year 2001 projects may begin as early as October 1, 2001 and no later than January 1, 2002. These figures are only estimates and do not bind the Department of Education to a specific number of grants, or to the amount of any grant, unless that amount is otherwise specified by statute or regulations.

Eligibility:

The improvement of postsecondary education requires the participation and cooperation of many types of institutions, organizations, and agencies. FIPSE supports a wide range of *non-profit* providers of educational services. Proposals may be submitted by two- and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private, accredited or non-accredited; graduate and professional schools; community organizations; libraries; museums; trade and technical schools; unions; consortia; student groups; state and local government agencies; non-profit corporations; and associations. Proposals may be submitted by newly formed as well as established organizations, but not by individuals or for-profit schools and organizations. Other organizations may be eligible; the list here is not exhaustive.

Authority:

The Education Amendments Act of 1972 authorized the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to improve postsecondary educational opportunities by providing assistance to educational institutions and agencies for a broad range of reforms and innovations. The specific authority is now contained in Title VII, Part B of the Higher Education Act as amended in 1998 (Public Law 105-244). Regulations are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34 Part 75. In addition, the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, and 85 apply.

Application Notice:

The official Application Notice is published in the *Federal Register*. The information in the Agenda for Improvement and the rest of this application

package is intended to aid in preparing applications for this competition. Nothing in this application package supersedes the priorities published in the *Federal Register*.

FIPSE Address (For information only; do *not* use this address to submit applications.)

FIPSE
8th Floor
1990 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-8544

Telephone: (202) 502-7500
E-mail: fipse@ed.gov

FIPSE World Wide Web Site: For information on past and current projects, successfully evaluated projects from previous years, application information, evaluation resources, and more, visit FIPSE's World Wide Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE>.